

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12
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-----110648 232241Z /66

R 232127Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7652

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 04528

E.O.11652:N/A
TAGS: ETEL, ITU
SUBJECT: ITU: 1978 ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL: DISCUSSION
WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL BUTLER

REF: GENEVA 04273

1. ON MARCH 22, TELATT HAD LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH
ITU DSYG BUTLER ON VARIETY OF MATTERS, MOSTLY RELATING
TO UPCOMING ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING. AMONG
SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WERE FOLLOWING:

A. TECHNICAL COOPERATION: BUTLER CONFIRMED SYG MILI'S
COMMENTS CONTAINED IN REFTEL RE REGIONAL EXPERTS AND
THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE NO TECHNICAL COOPERATION
PROBLEMS AT THIS COUNCIL SESSION.

B. WARC 79: BUTLER FORESEES NO PROBLEMS AT COUNCIL
ON THIS SUBJECT. HE DOES EXPECT HOWEVER THAT UK WILL
SUBMIT PAPER PROPOSING A POST-WARC MOBILE SERVICE
CONFERENCE IN 1982 TO CLEAR UP PROBLEMS UNFINISHED AT
1979 WARC.

C. PUBLICATIONS: BUTLER URGED U.S. TO SUPPORT
SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL TO TRANSFER FOUR POSITIONS FROM
PUBLICATIONS BUDGET TO REGULAR BUDGET. HE SAID THIS
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MOVE WOULD ENABLE UNION TO CUT PUBLICATIONS COSTS BY
SEVEN PERCENT.

D. LEGAL ADVISER/EXTERNAL RELATIONS SLOT: BASIC
IMPORT OF SECRETARIAT PROPOSAL, ACCORDING TO BUTLER,
IS TO RESTORE POSITION OF LEGAL ADVISER WHILE KEEPING
IBNOU-ZEKRI AS HEAD OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS DEPT. DURING

PERIOD THAT CLASSIFICATION EXPERT WAS ON BOARD (SEPT 1975-JUNE 1978), LEGAL ADVISER POSITION WAS FROZEN. BUTLER BELIEVES THAT ITU BADLY NEEDS QUALIFIED LEGAL ADVISER AND HOPES U.S. WILL SUPPORT RESTORATION OF THIS POSITION.

E. BUDGET: BUTLER BELIEVES ONLY REAL PROBLEM AT COUNCIL SESSION WILL BE BUDGET WHICH INVOLVES EXPENDITURE OF SF1.7 MILLION OVER CEILING. BUTLER BELIEVES OVERAGE CAN BE REDUCED TO ABOUT SF 1 MILLION BY MAKING SAVINGS IN INTERNAL SECRETARIAT COSTS BUT DOES NOT SEE HOW IT CAN BE REDUCED BELOW THAT FIGURE OTHER THAN BY CUTTING BACK EXPENDITURES FOR 1979 WARC OR TRIMMING 1979 SCHEDULE OF CCITT STUDY GROUP MEETINGS, BOTH OF WHICH HE IS RELUCTANT TO DO.

F. SLATES: BUTLER IS VERY DISAPPOINTED WITH U.S. DESIRE TO RETAIN CHAIRMANSHIP OF COMMITTEE THREE (TECHNICAL COOPERATION). HE STATES THAT MANY MEMBERS HAVE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR PRINCIPLE OF ROTATION IN COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIPS AND HE FEARS THAT IF U.S. IS NOT FLEXIBLE IN THIS MATTER, COUNCIL COULD VOTE IN SOME FORM OF MANDATORY ROTATION. HE ADDED THAT EUROPEANS HAD IMPLICITLY ACCEPTED ROTATION PRINCIPLE BY BACKING RAHBERG (SWEDEN) TO REPLACE U.K. AS CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE 2 (PERSONNEL). HE ALSO NOTED THAT WITH HERNANDEZ (MEXICO) FIRMLY IN SADDLE AS COMMITTEE ONE (FINANCE) UNCLASSIFIED

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CHAIRMAN, IF U.S. HELD ON TO COMMITTEE THREE, TWO OF THREE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN WOULD BE FROM WESTERN HEMISPHERE REGION. BUTLER PERSONALLY FAVORS SOLUTION WHEREBY THREE COMMITTEES WOULD BE RETAINED, BUT EACH WOULD HAVE TWO VICE CHAIRMEN, RATHER THAN ONE AS AT PRESENT, THUS PROVIDING THREE MORE SEATS ON STEERING COMMITTEE. AT ANY RATE, BUTLER SAID HE WAS SO UPSET WITH U.S. VIEW ON THIS MATTER THAT AS OF NOW HE IS OUT OF THE SLATE BUSINESS. COMMENT: SINCE BUTLER IS SUCH AN INVETERATE INTRIGUER, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR TELATT TO TAKE THIS THREAT SERIOUSLY. END COMMENT.

G. MADRID WORKING GROUP MEETING: ALTHOUGH BUTLER THOUGHT THAT MEETING WOULD PRODUCE LITTLE IF ANYTHING OF USE, HE HAS DECIDED THAT SINCE SYG MILI CANNOT ATTEND BECAUSE OF ACC MEETING IN LONDON, HE, BUTLER, WILL COME INSTEAD. BUTLER IS LEAVING LATER THIS WEEK FOR JAPAN TO FINALIZE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CCIR PLENARY IN KYOTO AND HAS NOW REARRANGED SCHEDULE TO PROVIDE FOR THREE-DAY STOPOVER IN MADRID ON HIS RETURN TO GENEVA.

H. PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE: BUTLER REPORTED THAT

SYG MILI WAS CURRENTLY DISCUSSING THIS MATTER WITH KENYAN
AUTHORITIES AND THAT BUTLER DID NOT SEE HOW NEXT PLENIPOT
COULD BE HELD BEFORE FIRST HALF OF 1983 (HE PROJECTED
BOTH WARC - SEE PARA B ABOVE - AND CCITT PLENARY FOR 1982)
AND NOTED 1980 AND 1981 BOTH ALREADY FULLY BOOKED. IN
DISCUSSING THIS MATTER, BUTLER CONFIRMED MISSION BELIEF
(REPORTED IN 1977) THAT MILI HIMSELF WAS BEHIND THE
KENYANS' PROPOSAL TO 1977 COUNCIL TO SET NEXT PLENIPOT
DATE FOR 1980, WHICH COUNCIL FAILED TO APPROVE. BUTLER

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SAID HIS OWN SOUNDINGS INDICATE THAT KENYANS ARE FULLY
FLEXIBLE ON DATE - THEY ONLY WISH ASSURANCES THAT THEY
WILL NOT HAVE THE CONFERENCE TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM IF
EXTENDED WELL BEYOND THE 1980 TIME-FRAME.

2. TELATT ADVISED BUTLER THAT US REP PHILLIPS WOULD
VISIT GENEVA MAY 1-3. HE CONFIRMED HE WOULD BE IN TOWN
AT THIS TIME AND SAID HE WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO SEE HER
THEN. VANDEN HEUVEL

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